

FIRST UNITED STATES RECORDS OF *LYGOCORIS KNIGHTI* (HEMIPTERA: MIRIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: *Lygocoris knighti* Kelton, a mirid known previously only from the type-locality in southwestern Ontario, is reported from the United States based on collections from *Viburnum recognitum* in New York and Pennsylvania, and *Hydrangea arborescens* in West Virginia.

Knight (1917) placed the taxonomically difficult complex of North American lygus bugs on a firm basis and presented numerous host plant records. His genus *Lygus* included several genera (e.g., *Lygocoris* Reuter) that have been removed from *Lygus* Hahn s.s. Kelton's (1971b) review of the Canadian and Alaskan species of *Lygocoris* included *L. knighti* Kelton, described from the Lake of the Woods region of southwestern Ontario near the Manitoba-Minnesota border. The type - series was taken from 27 June to 8 August 1960 on *Viburnum* sp. (Kelton, 1971 a).

In southcentral Pennsylvania I recently made the second known collection of *L. knighti*, nearly 1,200 miles from the type - locality. On 28 June 1979 I collected a ♂ on the inflorescence of staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina* L., growing along Fishing Creek, Dauphin Co., northeast of Harrisburg. After Thomas J. Henry identified the specimen, I returned on 30 June and took 4 ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀ from staghorn sumac, feeding on the flowers with adults of the mirids *L. belfragii* (Reuter), *Lygus lineolaris* (P. de B.), *Neurocolpus nubilus* (Say), *Plagiognathus politus* Uhler, and *Taedia scrupea* (Say). Two ♀♀ also were taken on drupes of smooth arrowwood, *Viburnum recognitum* Fernald (restudied), growing 10-15 m from the sumac. On 3 July, 2 additional ♂♂ were collected from sumac flowers; 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ were beaten from *V. recognitum* on 5 July.

On 7 July 1979 I collected *L. knighti* in southcentral New York. At the Cornell University Research Park, Tompkins Co., near Ithaca, 3 ♂♂ and 8 ♀♀ were taken on *V. recognitum* with nearly equal numbers of *L. belfragii* and *L. communis* (Knight).

A collection of West Virginia Miridae later submitted for identification by T.L. Mason, Jr. also contained *L. knighti*. His capture on 25 June 1979 of 2 ♀♀ from wild hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens* L., in Hancock Co. at the junction of Rt. 2 and Linneyville Road, actually predated the

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Pennsylvania and New York records. He also collected this mirid (3 ♀ ♀) from the same species of plant on 13 July in Pendleton Co., Rt. 33, just west of Mouth of Seneca, W. Va.

Although nymphs have not yet been found, it appears that *L. knighti* breeds on inflorescences of smooth arrowwood (and probably other *Viburnum* spp.) and disperses to flowers of other shrubs (sumac, possibly wild hydrangea) when those of its host deteriorate. Sumac flowers are known to attract other species of *Lygocoris* (Knight, 1917; Kelton, 1971 b).

I am fortunate to have had available my colleague and mirid specialist T.J. Henry to positively identify *L. knighti*.

Note added in proof: *L. knighti* has now been identified from North Carolina: 1 ♀, 4.5 mi. no. of Brevard, 30 June 1979. R.E. Pilatowski, on *Hydrangea arborescens*, det. T.J. Henry.

LITERATURE CITED

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Intended as a source of pest management ideas, topics covered include basic concepts, methods and implementation of pest management.